

Reserve

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CRAWFORD COUNTY

PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

CLEAR CREEK SOIL

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

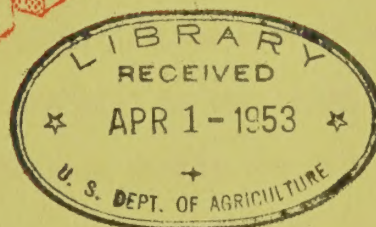
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30 ~~1951~~ ANNUAL REPORT

50 VAN BUREN, ARKANSAS

FOR A  
STRONG

AMERICA



This report is a review of the activities of a Farm Program as administered by farmer Committeemen and Supervisors.





## FORWARD

THE FARMER IS THE CUSTODIAN OF THE NATION'S MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE  
AND AS THE FARMER GOES SO GOES THE NATION -- a well-worded statement. If farmers should cease soil and water conservation now it would be one of the greatest catastrophes ever to befall our great nation. These programs have been administered by the farmer elected committeemen and supervisors like us since the beginning of these activities. We firmly believe in the Agricultural Conservation Program and it has proven to be sound, sure and basic. The program is available to all farmers large and small alike. We are farmers as well as Committeemen and Supervisors and we know what the Conservation Program means to the welfare of our nation.

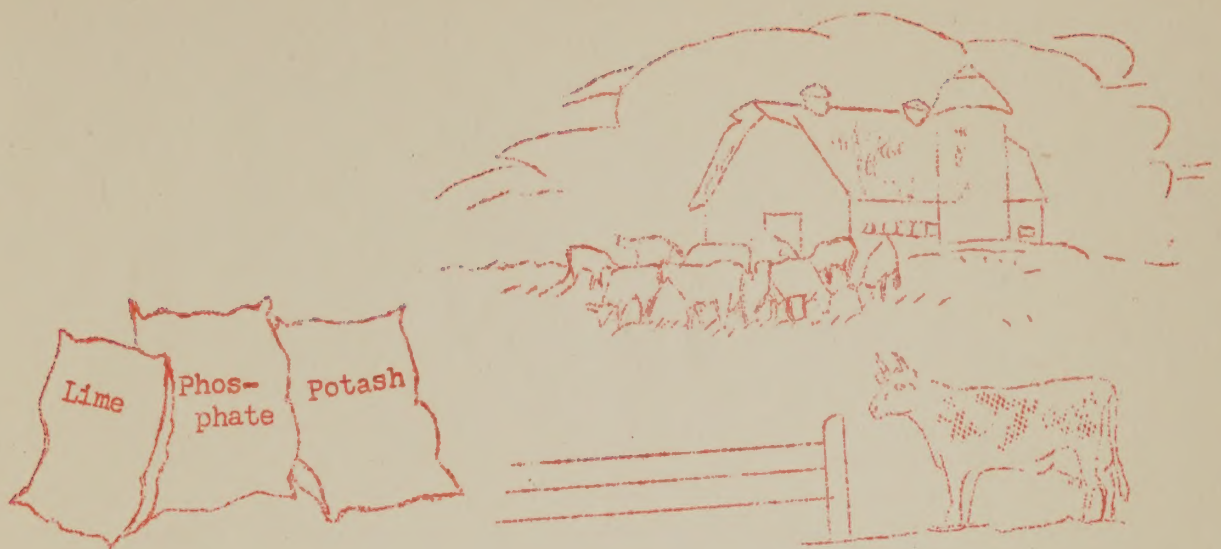
American farmers today are being called on to produce more than they have ever produced before. The unsettled conditions of a war-threatened world account for much of the immediate pressure.

But even without the emergency our needs will continue to increase. 25 years ago there were 117 million people in the United States. Today there are 154 million. At the present rate, by 1975 - less than 25 years from now - there will be nearly 200 million. Roughly it will be like adding 50 more cities the size of St. Louis, or 72 the size of San Francisco, or 92 the size of New Orleans.

The production needed by these increasing numbers must come largely from the same acres that are producing today. Fewer and fewer acres remain that can be shifted from the production of feed for draft animals. Land that can be reclaimed is comparatively limited. How well we eat in the years ahead depends primarily on how effectively we protect, conserve, build up, and use the land and water resources now in sight.







### PASTURE DEVELOPMENT

During 1951 approximately 10,200 acres was established or improved by seeding or sodding on 435 farms.

8,384 tons of lime were applied on approximately 4.142 acres of 260 farms to soil conserving crops.

36,572 pounds of 50% potash and 460,057 pounds of phosphate were applied to 3,000 acres of 125 farms to soil conserving crops. Grasses, legumes, lime, and fertilizer produce 50% more forage on well established pasture.

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SOIL LOSSES MUST BE CHECKED; SOIL FERTILITY MUST BE BUILT UP.

WE ARE STILL USING UP MORE PLANT NUTRIENTS EACH YEAR THAN ARE BEING RETURNED TO THE SOIL.





#### STOCK POND

During the past 12 years, 676 ponds have been constructed, an average of 56 each year.

In 1951, 96 ponds were constructed by excavating approximately 125,000 cubic yards of dirt.

With the tremendous increase of live stock in Crawford County, there is a definite need for at least one permanent type watering place for each 40 acres of established pasture.

The added water supplies result in a better distribution of live-stock and helps prevent over-grazing and the erosion resulting when there are too few watering places.

Approximately 75 ponds were stocked with bass and bluegill by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service cooperating in 1951.

EFFECTIVE PRODUCTION DEPENDS ON EFFECTIVE USE OF WATER.









#### TERRACING

575 miles of terraces have been built on approximately 500 farms in the last 16 years with 12 farms constructing 8 miles of terraces in 1951.

Unchecked water from rains rushing down unprotected slopes carries the soil with it.

That soil muddies our rivers, fills our harbors, and leaves the farms impoverished.

Terraces on sloping farm land check the downward flow of water.

More of the water soaks into the soil to help grow more grass and more crops.

Crops planted on the contour help hold back water, each crop row serving as a small dam, permitting the water to soak into the soil.

Terracing and contour cultivation reduce soil and water losses and increase yields 50%.

RUNAWAY SOILS PRODUCE NO CROPS





#### COVER CROPS

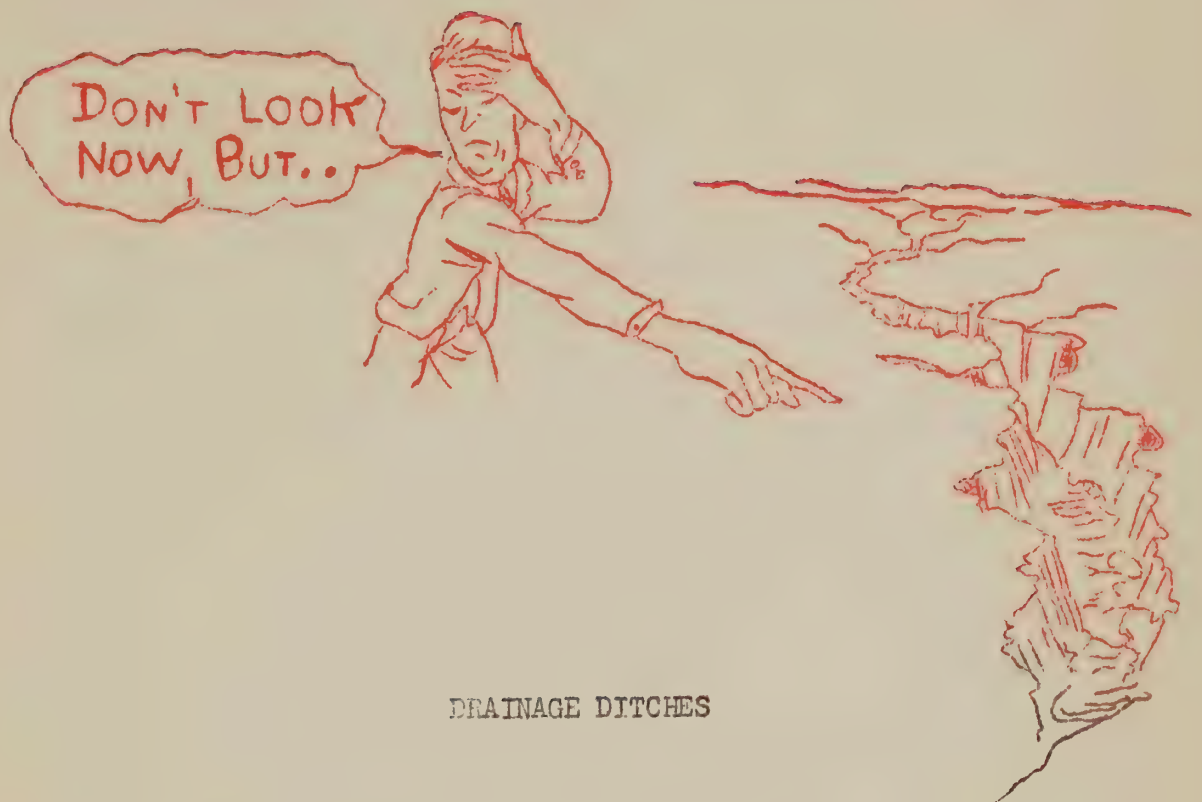
In the past 16 years an average of 480 farms have planted an average of 3,500 acres of green manure and cover crops each year. Long periods of cultivation have depleted much of the nitrogen and organic content of our soil. Use of legume crops is one of the best ways to replace nitrogen. Legumes used as cover crops also prevent erosion and retain water, and when turned under they add organic matter to the soil.

The PMA Program has assisted farmers with a part of the cost of winter legume seeds, such as Singletary and Austrian Winter Peas, Hairy Vetch, and fall seeded small grains that are left on the land or turned under, and the SCS has furnished technical assistance. 100 times more top soil and 5 times more water is lost from land without cover crops. Cover crops in rotation increased corn yields from 24 to 62 bushels per acre.

A NATIONAL INVESTMENT TO INSURE FOOD AND FIBER IN THE FUTURE.







#### DRAINAGE DITCHES

Proper drainage of farm land is an important phase of the Conservation Program and a practice which has been widely used to make more land available for crops and pastures in Crawford County. To encourage this practice, the PMA pays part of the cost of construction and the Soil Conservation Service furnished the technical help.

During the period of 1942-1950, 250,238 cubic yards of dirt were moved on 207 farms, covering 51 miles of ditching. This is providing good drainage on 11,000 acres of land that was not productive in its water-logged condition.

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PROPER DRAINAGE CHANGES WET COLD LAND INTO A PRODUCTIVE FIELD.  
PRODUCTION TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE IS IN THE FARMER'S HANDS.







### THE PMA COUNTY AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEEMEN

**Crawford County** is composed of 12 PMA Communities. These **Community Committeemen** are elected annually by the farmers of each community. The farmers also elect a delegate to the County Convention where the 12 delegates elect three County Committeemen. These Committeemen are responsible for administering the Agricultural Conservation Program, Price Supports, Marketing Quotas, and the Farm Storage Facilities Loan Program.

The County Committee are: John H. Hobbs, Rudy, Arkansas  
James O. McClure, Rt. 3, Van Buren, Ark.  
D. Tom House, Mulberry, Arkansas

The Community Committmnen are as follows:

A&B -T. H. Head T. B. Swearingen Sam Cottrell	G - Albert Kiene Hugh Winfrey Claud Rogers	L-- S. T. Slaven B. F. Briley Claud Floyd
C - B. F. Webb Marvin Briley V. T. Smith	H - Joseph Sanders Clarence Young Sam Coleman	M - Vernon Cate W. M. Farris J. T. Secrest
D - Wayne Bonewell Brose Hobbs Jack White	I&J-Wayne Billings Charlie Robertson Mack Taylor	N - Clarence McClure Ralph Parks Aud Daugherty
E&F -W. Frank Wright J. W. Vaught Bruce Curry	K - James Cottrell Earl H. Rackley R. E. Mason, Jr.	O - Walden Gooch Jim Harris E. L. Kibler





### THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Clear Creek Soil Conservation District is a legally organized sub-governmental division, operating under the laws of Arkansas. It operates under the guidance of five local land owners as a Board of Supervisors, who are:

Mont G. Dean, Chairman	J. O. McClure
J. J. Simmons, Secretary	Milton Brownlee
Mike Meyer	

The Soil Conservation Service is a technical agency, assisting the district supervisors to establish their basic objectives:

1. A sound land use program;
2. The right combinations of practice;
3. To maintain and improve soil; and
4. To practice economically sound conservation farming.

These objectives are included in 634 Farmer-district agreements on 70,898 acres.

The Soil Conservation Service technical staff serviced 339 referrals from Production and Marketing Administration for preliminary layouts or final construction. The findings were:

175	on ponds;
95	on clearing and seeding;
26	on terrace construction;
25	on drainage ditches;
10	on spring development; and
8	on sod waterway.







### THE AGRICULTURAL MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

The membership of this committee consists of the chief official of each agency of the Department of Agriculture having county-wide jurisdiction for the county, the members of the County P. M. A. Committee, the county agent, and a representative of the vocational agricultural educational teachers.

Part of the responsibilities of this committee are listed below:

Assistance to Selective Service regarding deferments for agricultural workers.

Production guides and goals.

Farm Scrap Drive.

Family Farm Policy Review.

Coordination of U. S. D. A. activities.

County Seed Mobilization Program.

Assistance in obtaining priorities for materials and supplies for agricultural production.

Reports on labor situation in county.

This Committee is composed of the following:

John H. Hobbs, Production and Marketing Administration  
James O. McClure, Production and Marketing Administration  
D. Tom House, Production and Marketing Administration  
Calvin W. Bedell, Soil Conservation Service  
E. H. Pritchett, Extension Service  
Jack Elzey, Farmers' Home Administration  
Billy H. Reynolds, Production and Marketing Administration  
Jeff E. Irons, Production Credit Association  
W. C. Hunter, National Farm Loan Association  
Truman Boatright, Vocational Agriculture  
Troy Curtis, U. S. Forestry Service  
Wallace M. Milton, Rural Electrification Association





## 1952 PROGRESS

Through the combined efforts of the PMA and SCS it has been possible for the farmers to:

1. Obtain 35,000 Kudzu crowns on purchase order, which have been set out on approximately 70 acres. These crowns are of great value in erosion control, soil improvement, and are also profitable for hay or seasonal pasture.
2. Obtain 5300 pounds of Sericea Lespedeza on purchase order, which has been seeded on approximately 155 acres. Sericea is an excellent legume for use in rotation. Besides giving protection against erosion the deep roots of Sericea Lespedeza penetrating the soil increases its capacity for absorbing water. Sericea manures the land so it will produce larger yields.
3. Obtain Rock Phosphate, which is a new practice, on purchase order. 600 tons have been ordered to date and will be used in combination with 12 tons of superphosphate. Progressive farmers and soil scientists agree that the use of Rock Phosphate in a long range, soil building program will pay dividends in bigger yields and maintain constant soil fertility.
4. In 1952, applications have been received for assistance in the construction of approximately 48 stock ponds. 14 farmers have made application for assistance in the construction of terraces, 30 applications for clearing and establishing permanent pasture, and, 3 applications for drainage ditches.

Every farmer should have a conservation plan worked out by the Soil Conservation Service and the Production and Marketing Administration will furnish assistance in the carrying out of designated practices.

THERE WILL BE 38,000,000 MORE PEOPLE AT THE TABLE BY 1975.



## CONCLUSION

It is impossible for our committee to estimate the exact number of tons of top soil that have been saved through the practices carried out under the Agricultural Conservation Program. But we do know that soil losses were tremendous when the Conservation Programs were first put in operation in this county. These losses have been greatly reduced by Conservation practices promoted by our County Committee and Supervisors.

We would not attempt to take all the credit for the job that has been done for we are not due all the credit. We express our appreciation to other groups who have given their help toward making our programs a great success. The Agricultural Extension Service, Farmers' Home Administration, Vocational Agricultural Instructors and On the Farm Training Instructors have all played a part in the over-all job. We hasten to recognize the encouragement received from business men and the help given by vendors in helping make our program successful. To all of these and to any others not mentioned, who have given their assistance, we express our deepest appreciation. We hope that our relationship in years to come will be even more pleasant and that others may join with us in our efforts to build a farm program that will be acceptable on its merits to men in all walks of life.

### PMA COUNTY COMMITTEE

John H. Hedges  
John H. Hedges, Chairman

James C. McClure  
James C. McClure, Vice-chairman

D. Tom House  
D. Tom House, Regular Member

### SCS SUPERVISORS

Monty Dean  
Mont. C. Dean, Chairman

J. J. Lankford  
J. J. Lankford, Secretary

Mike Meyer  
Mike Meyer

James C. McClure  
James C. McClure

Milton Brownlee  
Milton Brownlee





LISTED BELOW ARE SOME INTERESTING FIGURES TAKEN FROM THE  
PRELIMINARY  
1950 Census of Agriculture  
Crawford County, Arkansas

<u>FARMS, ACREAGE, AND VALUE</u>		<u>County Total</u>
Farms . . . . .	number 1950 . . . . .	2,295
	1945 . . . . .	2,357
Approximate land area . . . . .	acres 1950 . . . . .	382,720
Proportion in farms . . . . .	percent 1950 . . . . .	52.1
Land owned by farm operators . . . . .	acres 1950 . . . . .	153,603
Land rented from others by farm operators . . . . .	acres 1950 . . . . .	51,396
Land managed by farm operators . . . . .	acres 1950 . . . . .	4,100
Land rented to others by farm operators . . . . .	acres 1950 . . . . .	9,764
Land in farms . . . . .	acres 1950 . . . . .	199,335
	1945 . . . . .	200,934
Average size of farm . . . . .	acres 1950 . . . . .	86.9
	1945 . . . . .	85.2
Value of land and buildings . . . . .	average per farm, dollars 1950 . . . . .	5,608
	1945 . . . . .	2,778
	average per acre, dollars 1950 . . . . .	68.66

VALUE OF PRODUCTS SOLD, BY SOURCE

All farm products sold . . . . .	dollars 1949 . . . . .	2,625,057
	1944 . . . . .	2,045,872
All livestock and livestock products sold . . . . .	dollars 1949 . . . . .	1,185,926
	1944 . . . . .	714,626

FARMS BY TYPE OF FARMS

	<u>number 1950</u>	<u>County Total</u> (dollars)
Field-crop farms other than vegetable and fruit-and-nut . . . . .	32 . . . . .	365,840
	1944 . . . . .	231,860
Vegetable . . . . .	120 . . . . .	648,269
	1944 . . . . .	828,104
Fruit and nut . . . . .	200 . . . . .	392,447
	1944 . . . . .	175,381
Dairy . . . . .	80 . . . . .	225,611
	1944 . . . . .	236,628
Poultry . . . . .	31 . . . . .	131,587
	1944 . . . . .	112,181
Livestock farms other than dairy & poultry . . . . .	253 . . . . .	758,728
	1944 . . . . .	365,817

SPECIFIED FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Telephone . . . . .	farms reporting 1950 . . . . .	514
	1945 . . . . .	181
Electricity . . . . .	farms reporting 1950 . . . . .	1,584
	1945 . . . . .	644
Pick-up hay balers . . . . .	farms reporting 1950 . . . . .	59
	number 1950 . . . . .	59
Upright silos . . . . .	farms reporting 1950 . . . . .	1
	number 1950 . . . . .	2
Pit or trench silos . . . . .	farms reporting 1950 . . . . .	18
	number 1950 . . . . .	38





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